## THE CHAOS

by Dr. Gerard Nolst Trenité (Netherlands, 1870-1946)

Dearest creature in creation, 'dırəst 'kri!t∫r ın kri'eı∫ən, Study English pronunciation. 'stʌdi 'ɪŋˌglɪ∫ prəˌnʌnsi'eɪ∫ən. I will teach you in my verse 'aɪ wəl 'ti!t∫ ju ɪn 'maɪ 'v₃!s Sounds like corpse, corps, horse, and worse. 'saundz 'laık 'ko!rps, 'ko!rz, 'ho!rs, end 'wa!s. I will keep you, Suzy, busy, 'ar wəl 'ki'p ju, 'su'zi, 'brzi, Make your head with heat grow dizzy. 'meɪk jər 'hed wɪθ 'hilt 'groʊ 'dɪzi. Tear in eye, your dress will tear. 'tır ın 'aı, jər 'dres wəl teər. So shall I! Oh hear my prayer. 'soʊ ∫əl 'aɪ! 'oʊ 'hɪr 'maɪ 'prer. Just compare heart, beard, and heard, dyest kem per 'hairt, 'bird, end 'haid, Dies and diet, lord and word, 'daiz and 'daiat, 'loird and 'waid, Sword and sward, retain and Britain. 'spird and 'swaird, ra'tein and 'britn. (Mind the latter, how it's written.) ('maind ðə 'lætər, 'haʊ its 'ritn.) Now I surely will not plague you 'naʊ 'aɪ '∫ʊrli wəl 'nɑːt 'pleɪg ju With such words as plaque and ague. wiθ 'sət∫ 'w3idz əz 'plæk ənd 'ei,gjui. But be careful how you speak: bət bi 'kerfəl 'hav ju 'spilk: Say break and steak, but bleak and streak;

Cloven, oven, how and low, 'klowven, 'Aven, 'haw end 'low, Script, receipt, show, poem, and toe.

'skript, rə'si!t, '∫oʊ, 'poʊəm, ənd 'toʊ.

'seɪ 'breɪk ənd 'steɪk, bət 'bliːk ənd 'striːk;

Hear me say, devoid of trickery, 'hır 'mil 'seı, dı voıd əv 'trıkəri, Daughter, laughter, and Terpsichore, 'dotər, 'læftər, ənd |t3:p'sikə:ri,

Typhoid, measles, topsails, aisles, 'tarford, 'milzəlz, 'talp serlz, 'arlz, Exiles, similes, and reviles; 'eg zaīlz, 'sīməliz, ənd ri'vaīlz; Scholar, vicar, and cigar, 'skallər, 'vikər, ənd si'galr, Solar, mica, war and far; 'sowler, 'marke, 'woir end 'fair; One, anemone, Balmoral, 'wan, ə'neməni, bæl'mɔːrəl, Kitchen, lichen, laundry, laurel; 'kɪt∫ən, 'laɪkən, 'londri, 'lɔːrəl; Gertrude, German, wind and mind, 'galtruld, 'dgalmen, wind end 'maind, Scene, Melpomene, mankind. 'siIn, mel'palməniI, 'mæn kaınd.

Billet does not rhyme with ballet, 'bilət dəz 'nαːt 'raɪm wiθ bæ'lei, Bouquet, wallet, mallet, chalet. boʊl'ker, 'wolət, 'mælət, '∫æ ler. Blood and flood are not like food, 'blad end 'flad er 'noIt 'laik 'fuid, Nor is mould like should and would. 'noIr z mowld 'laɪk ∫əd ənd 'wwd. Viscous, viscount, load and broad, 'viskəs, 'vai kaunt, 'loud ənd 'brod, Toward, to forward, to reward. toird, tə 'foirwərd, tə rə'woird. And your pronunciation's OK ənd jər pro n∧nsi'eı∫ənz oʊ'keı When you correctly say croquet, 'wen ju kə'rektli 'seɪ 'kroʊkeɪ, Rounded, wounded, grieve and sieve, 'raundid, 'wuInded, 'grilv end 'siv, Friend and fiend, alive and live. 'frend ənd 'fi!nd, ə'laıv ənd 'lıv.

Ivy, privy, famous; clamour
'arvi, 'privi, 'ferməs; 'klæmər
And enamour rhyme with hammer.
and e'næmər 'rarm wrθ 'hæmər.
River, rival, tomb, bomb, comb,
'rrvər, 'rarvəl, 'tu'm, 'ba'm, 'koʊm,
Doll and roll and some and home.

'dall and rowl and sam and howm. Stranger does not rhyme with anger, 'streindzər dəz 'nalt 'raım wiθ 'æŋgər, Neither does devour with clangour. 'nai!ðər dəz dı'vaʊər wıθ 'klæŋər. Souls but foul, haunt but aunt, soulz bet 'faul, 'hont bet 'ænt, Font, front, wont, want, grand, and grant, 'faint, 'frent, 'wount, 'waint, 'grænd, end 'grænt, Shoes, goes, does. Now first say finger, '[ulz, gowz, daz. 'naw 'falst 'sei 'fingar, And then singer, ginger, linger, ənd 'ðen 'siŋər, 'dʒindʒər, 'liŋgər, Real, zeal, mauve, gauze, gouge and gauge, 'rilel, 'zill, mowv, 'goz, 'gawda end 'geida, Marriage, foliage, mirage, and age. 'merida, 'fowliida, mə'rala, ənd 'eida. Query does not rhyme with very, 'kwilri dəz 'nαlt 'raım wıθ 'veri. Nor does fury sound like bury. 'no!r dəz 'fjori 'saond 'laık 'beri. Dost, lost, post and doth, cloth, loth. 'daist, 'lost, powst and 'do $\theta$ , 'klo $\theta$ , lov $\theta$ . Job, nob, bosom, transom, oath. 'dʒalb, 'nalb, 'bʊzəm, 'trænsəm, oʊθ. Though the differences seem little, 'ðoʊ ðə 'dīfərənsəz 'silm 'lītəl, We say actual but victual. wi 'ser 'ækt∫əwəl bət 'vrtəl. Refer does not rhyme with deafer. rəˈfɜː dəz ˈnɑːt ˈraɪm wiθ ˈdefər. Feoffer does, and zephyr, heifer. 'fefər dxz, ənd 'zefər, 'hefər. Mint, pint, senate and sedate; 'mint, 'paint, 'senət ənd sə'deit; Dull, bull, and George ate late. 'dəl, 'bʊl, ənd 'dʒɔːrdʒ 'eɪt 'leɪt. Scenic, Arabic, Pacific, 'siInık, 'ærəbık, pə'sıfık, Science, conscience, scientific. 'saiəns, 'kain∫əns, saiən'tifik. Liberty, library, heave and heaven,

'libərti, 'laibreri, 'hi!v ənd 'hevən,

Rachel, ache, moustache, eleven. 'reɪt∫əl, 'eɪk, 'məˌstæ∫, ə'levən. We say hallowed, but allowed, wi 'ser 'hæloʊd, bət ə'laʊd, People, leopard, towed, but vowed. 'pilpəl, 'lepərd, toud, bət 'vaud. Mark the differences, moreover, 'malrk ðə 'difərənsəz, molr'ovvə, Between mover, cover, clover; bə'twiin 'mulvər, 'knvər, 'klowvə; Leeches, breeches, wise, precise, 'li!t∫əz, 'bri!t∫əz, 'waɪz, prə'saɪs, Chalice, but police and lice; 't∫æləs, bət pə'liːs ənd 'laɪs; Camel, constable, unstable, 'kæməl, 'kaInstəbəl, ∧n'sterbəl, Principle, disciple, label. 'prinsəpəl, də'saipəl, 'leibəl. Petal, panel, and canal, 'petəl, 'pænəl, ənd kə'næl, Wait, surprise, plait, promise, pal. 'weit, sər'praiz, 'pleit, 'pralməs, 'pæl. Worm and storm, chaise, chaos, chair, 'w3:m and 'sta:rm, '∫eiz, 'keias, 't∫er, Senator, spectator, mayor. 'senətər, 'spektetər, 'meɪər. Tour, but our and succour, four. 'tor, bet 'amer end 'saker, 'foir. Gas, alas, and Arkansas. 'gæs, ə'læs, ənd 'airkən sai. Sea, idea, Korea, area, 'sil, ar'dilə, ko'rilə, 'eriə, Psalm, Maria, but malaria. 'sallm, mə'rilə, bət mə'leriə. Youth, south, southern, cleanse and clean. 'juːθ, 'saʊθ, 'sʌðərn, 'klenz ənd 'kliːn. Doctrine, turpentine, marine. 'dalktrən, 'talpən taın, mə'riln. Compare alien with Italian, kəm'per 'eɪliən wɪθ ə'tæljən, Dandelion and battalion. 'dændə larən ənd bə tæljən.

Sally with ally, yea, ye,

'sæli wiθ 'ælai, 'jei, 'jii,

Eye, I, ay, aye, whey, and key.
'ai, 'ai, 'ai, 'ei, 'wei, ənd 'kii.

Say aver, but ever, fever,
'sei ə'vər, bət 'evər, 'fiivər,

Neither, leisure, skein, deceiver.
'nailŏər, 'leʒər, 'skein, di'siivər.

Heron, granary, canary.
'herən, 'greinəri, kə'neri.

Crevice and device and aerie.
'krevəs ənd di'vais ənd 'eri.

Face, but preface, not efface. 'feis, bət 'prefəs, 'nalt ə'feis. Phlegm, phlegmatic, ass, glass, bass. 'flem, flag'mætik, 'æs, 'glæs, 'beis. Large, but target, gin, give, verging, 'lairda, bet 'tairget, 'dain, 'giv, 'vaidain, Ought, out, joust and scour, scourging. 'olt, 'aut, 'daust end 'skauer, 'skaldain. Ear, but earn and wear and tear 'ir, bət '3'n ənd 'wer ənd teər Do not rhyme with here but ere. də 'naIt 'raım wiθ hiər bət eər. Seven is right, but so is even, 'sevən ız 'raıt, bət 'soo ız 'ilvən, Hyphen, roughen, nephew Stephen, 'haɪfən, 'rʌfən, 'nefjul 'stilvən, Monkey, donkey, Turk and jerk, 'mʌŋki, 'daːŋki, 'tɜːk ənd 'dʒɜːk, Ask, grasp, wasp, and cork and work. 'æsk, 'græsp, 'walsp, ənd 'kolrk ənd 'walk.

Pronunciation -- think of Psyche!

pro nansi'eɪ ən -- 'θɪŋk əv 'saɪki!

Is a paling stout and spikey?

Iz ə 'peɪlɪŋ 'staʊt ənd 'spaɪki?

Won't it make you lose your wits,

woʊnt 'ɪt 'meɪk ju 'luːz jər 'wɪts,

Writing groats and saying grits?

'raɪtɪŋ groʊts ənd 'seɪɪŋ 'grɪts?

It's a dark abyss or tunnel:

Its ə 'dɑɪrk ə'bɪs ɔɪr 'tanəl:

Strewn with stones, stowd, solace, gunwale,

'struɪn wɪθ 'stoʊnz, stoʊd, 'sɑɪləs, 'gʌnəl,

## Islington and Isle of Wight, 'Islington and 'ail av 'wait, Housewife, verdict and indict. 'hawswaif, 'valdikt and in'dait.

Finally, which rhymes with enough —

'farneli, 'wrt\subsets' rarmz wr0 e'nef -
Though, through, plough, or dough, or cough?

'ŏoʊ, @ru!, 'plaʊ, ɔ!r 'doʊ, ɔ!r 'kulf?

Hiccough has the sound of cup.

'hrkAp hæz ŏe 'saʊnd ev kAp.

My advice is to give up!!!

'mar æd'vars rz te 'grv Ap!!!